

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

**Kazakhstan Local Government Initiative
Report Number Four**

FOR THE PERIOD

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I. Introduction

Local government in Kazakhstan is a nexus for many of the key issues confronting the Republic's development. Thus, advocating for issues related to decentralization requires a thoughtful and comprehensive, democracy-based strategy at the local level. Local government officials are often not properly trained, hamstrung by a lack of budgetary resources, ineffective, and sometimes corrupt. Year three of the Local Government Initiative (LGI) – Kazakhstan builds on the foundation established by the first two and half years by helping to enable “more effective, responsible and accountable local governance” in Kazakhstan. The activities and the strategy undertaken by the International City/ County Management Association (ICMA) and its counterparts in reaching the Strategic Objective of USAID's Local Government Initiative follow this outline:

The strategies for achieving the Strategic Objective are based on the following indicators:

- I) Introduction of democratic practices (IR 2.3.1)
- II) Increased local government capacity (IR 2.3.2)
- III) Increased local government authority (IR 2.3.3)

The pursuit of these objectives will utilize a three-tiered, “osmotic” approach to sustainable, local government institution building:

- a) **local level** focus on pilot municipalities technical assistance and training;
- b) **nationwide** dissemination of proven best practices, and strengthening local institutions and;
- c) **national level** legislative change and policy implementation through sharing successful innovations.

During the Reporting Period of October-December, 2000 the following activities were undertaken by ICMA in Kazakhstan:

II. Major Accomplishments (April-June 2001).

Highlights

April:

- Pavlodar Akeem Chmykt gives a press conference in Pavlodar to the heads of Pavlodar Aksu and Ekibastus cities on the Resource Cities trip to Helena, Montana
- Information collected on economic development in Ekibastus that will facilitate the training to be held in May in Ekibastus and Byan Aul by ICMA's technical advisor Deborah Kimble. Meetings with private US investors Access industries and AES Energy Systems pledging support for ED Council in Ekibastus
- Trainings held: Ust-Kamenogorsk – Housing Management; Pavlodar – Training of Trainers; Aturay – General Management. Standards for ICMA training finalized. ICMA participated in the opening of the new Regional Training Center in Atyrau for Local Government training
- A letter to Deputy Presidential Aparat Head Utembayev to describe ICMA's new directions and hopes to collaborate with the help of the Presidential Administration
- New National Advisory members contacted and invited to participate in this year's NAC meetings.
- Public Hearing held by the Maslikhat in Pavlodar on Alternative Water sources. Public Hearings held by the Atyrau Anti-Monopoly Committee on Gas Tariffs and rehabilitation of gas pipelines

- New Housing Management module successfully tested in Ust; 29 participants trained and 100 percent attendance

May

- Grant agreements activated for both RTCs in Pavlodar and Almaty for \$10,000 each for six months
- Pavlodar Deputy Akeem Osponov requested further assistance on procurement issues and program budgeting
- Economic Development training in Ekibastus May 24-25 with ICMA specialist Debbie Kimble
- Abt Associates submitted recommendations to the Pavlodar Healthcare portion of the program budget; further collaboration is being sought with Barents
- Pasha Smirnov travels to Naryn to help prepare the city staff on use of AutoCAD as part of the Naryn/ Great Falls partnership
- Meetings with key counterparts in Astana and Pavlodar by Ted Priftis, Kathryn Stratos and Ivan Apanesevich
- Roundtable on “Ways to Form An Image for Civil Servants” in Alatau sanatorium with Institute for Local Government, Transparency International and ICMA; Present - Agency for Civil Service representatives including Chairman Turisbekov; agreements made to continue the anti-corruption dialogue
- TOT completed in Atyrau, 24 new trainers trained; TOT in Almaty starting May 28; First Financial Management Seminars I and II in Astana May 7-8, 10-11 - three new Pavlodar trainers attended.
- Working session with Amyret Konisbayev of the ACS on ways to collaborate further with ICMA; ideas included further RTC development in other regions and TOTs in new regions where there is a need; Volunteer Service Organization of Europe interested in placing a volunteer in Pavlodar RTC. Training requests received from the following municipalities: Taraz, Kyzylorda, Petropavlovsk, Kharaghanda; General Management training seminar held in Pavlodar.
- With Eurasia Foundation, ICMA held a Public Hearing training and public hearing on Economic Development in Lisakovsk
- Received interest from 12 small cities on municipal association workshop
- Glossary of municipal terms completed and being adapted to training modules
- First NAC meeting held May 4th with new members; Best Practices competition decided by NAC members; three submittals from Lisakovsk and one from Shaktynsk.
- Meetings in Astana with key policy figures Utembayev, Dep Head Pres Apparat, Kanat Osponov, Dep Head Agency for Strat Planning, Turisbekov, Head of the Agency for Civil Service

June

- ICMA STA Alan Edmond in Pavlodar to hold a on Organizational and Functional Analysis of the Oblast departments of healthcare and education between June 18-22; Workshop brings in 24 oblast and city heads of departments and several rayon akeems; report results to be translated in July and shared with counterparts in Pavlodar and Astana including the Abt Associates ZdravReform project
- The Training of Trainers module contracted to three ICMA development specialists and trained trainers to revise and adapt to Kazakhstan conditions; the module which can be considered the basis of all ICMA training work will be readied for more ToTs in September; ToTs tentatively slated for the following developing RTCs: Karaghanda, Ust-Kamenagorsk, Kyzyl-Orda, Shymkent, Kostanai and Taraz

- The Agency for Civil Service proposes a weeklong RTC directors orientation and networking seminar in Astana beginning of September; The Agency for Civil Service proposes training to RTC directors in anti-corruption and civil service image building;
- Financial Management III for Astana city finance officials June 22-23; 18 participants received certificates; Elected Leadership seminar for local Maslikhat leaders held at the Pavlodar RTC June 18-22; General Management seminar held in Almaty RTC June 18-22
- Elzbieta Rusielewicz, director for the Bodagoszcz, Poland RTC of the Foundation in the Support of Local Democracy in Kazakhstan June 26 – July 5th, completed a needs assessment and initiated observations for the start of an exchange program between Kazakhstan and Polish RTC directors; visits Pavlodar, Almaty and Shymkent
- A public forum held June 22 in Astana in the Parliament Majilis on the question of Kazakhstan housing cooperatives legislation; ICMA gives a presentation on fundamentals, proposes steps for further clarification and shows a 20-minute video on Kazakhstan housing problems and solutions; Over 150 attendees including members of national and regional housing associations representing KCKs and citizens; Antimonopoly committee chairman and regional chairpeople; senators and deputies of the Parliament; government members including Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Resources Shkolnyk; press people including Habar TV; ICMA/ USAID -- the only foreign representation invited and to attending.
- Special newsletters produced and delivered (Housing issue and Best Practices issue); May issue of the ICMA Municipal Management in Kazakhstan newsletter prepared
- A working group ensuing from the Parliamentarian Public Forum on Housing comprised of Association leaders, parliamentarians and Anti-Monopoly committee members to start drafting a clear Law on KCK (or Condominium); members of the group to attending the ICMA/ AED study tour on housing associations to Slovakia in July
- Request from the Ministry of Finance to hold ICMA's Financial Management training for Min Fin personnel in Astana; ICMA explores the possibility of holding this seminar in early fall

Time Chart

Planned Project Accomplishments	Actual Project Accomplishments	
Organizational and Functional Analysis Workshop Preparation	Pavlodar	Documents gathered by early June
OFA Workshop	Pavlodar	Workshop Held in June by STA Alan Edmond
Training in Local Economic Development	Pavlodar oblast	Training held May 24-25
Support Aturay Maslikhat on dialogue with Public on WB Loan Project	Aturay	On schedule
Support Pavlodar-Helena technical exchange	Pavlodar	Preparation for third trip in progress
Naryn-Great Falls last technical exchange	Almaty, Naryn	Sixth trip facilitated in April
Support Almaty-Tucson Technical Exchange	Almaty	Third trip from Tucson to Almaty in June
Glossary of Local Government	Almaty	Completed in May

terms developed		
Update Housing training materials To be concurrent with Kazakhstan law		Completed; Modules tested in April
AED Housing Association Study Tour		To be held in July
AED Economic Development Study Tour		To be held in July
RTC director exchange with Polish Center for the Support of democracy	Pavlodar	Held in June
Workshop on Anti-corruption in pilot municipalities	Akmaty	Workshop held in May
Disseminate public hearing video to TV stations	Atyrau	In progress
Hold Small Cities meeting		Meeting held in June
Maslikhat Legal Compendium compiled		In progress
Recommendations on OFA analysis		To be produced early July

III. Challenges/Remedial Actions Taken

N/A

IV. Detailed Technical Description of the Work Planned for the Next Reporting Period

The following activities are planned for the period July-September, 2001:

P1 - Pilot Oblast Strategy

- Develop preliminary functional analysis of the Healthcare and Education departments in the oblast.
- Organizational and Functional Analysis in Pavlodar – Report and Initial Recommendations.
- Hold roundtable with oblast and republican officials including Maslikhat and NGOs
- Hold second workshop with Ekibastus and Bayan Aul Ed councils after study tour to Bulgaria
- With Anti-Monopoly and Maslikhat committee devise strategy to train all KCK managers and bookkeepers in oblast
- Devise open competition for citizen participation events with Soros Foundation and/ or Eurasia Foundation

T2 - Locally Available Training

- Ethics/ Image in Local Government training module development with Transparency International
- Revise Training of Trainers module to Kazakhstan through League of Trainers or other association
- Translate adapted modules into Kazakh language through procurement with RTCs and other NGOs

- Exchange program with the Polish Foundation for the Support of Democracy to share experiences and information
- Hold anti-corruption roundtables
- Atyrau Housing training project: Atyrau housing managers and bookkeepers trained

G3 - Good Practices

- Maslikhat handbook printed and disseminated through trainings and workshops
- Develop regular features from pilot regions, Astana
- Provide information on grant giving opportunities and other donors in LG
- Special newsletters on specific topics
- Hold Best Practices and Lessons Learned conference to highlight Naryn Great Falls partnership with targeted cities in Kazakhstan and international donors
- Perfect LGI best practices competition with feedback from the NAC
- Contract with Kazakhstan National Press Club to monitor press clippings

L4 - Strengthen and Develop Local Institutions

- Conduct Economic Development Study tour to Bulgaria with AED
- Conduct Housing Association study tour to Slovakia
- Conduct Best Practices exchange study tours for elected officials in Eastern Europe.
- Third visit of Resource Cities from Tucson and Helena.

S5 - Share Successful Innovations

- Provide STA on as needed basis for local government legislation; local elections and local budgetary authority
- Feed Pavlodar OFA recommendations into the national dialogue with Agency for Strategic Planning and TACIS project
- Support development of housing policy recommendations from participants on Slovakia housing association study tour

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